

BLACKS ISSUE WRIT

Brisbane: A Supreme Court writ was issued last week on behalf of Aurukun Aborigines against the Corporation of the Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement, of Brisbane.

The writ claims that in entering an agreement with Tipperary Corporation, Billiton Aluminium Australia B.V, and Aluminium Pechinery Holdings Pty Ltd, and in granting the companies a right to enter the Aurukun reserve, the defendant acted in a breach of trust.

It also claimed that the defendant holds in trust for the plaintiffs any moneys by way of profits received pursuant to the agreement. It further seeks an injunction restraining the defendant from paying the money or any part into a fund styled "Aborigine Welfare Fund".

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Signed by 325 people, the petition claimed that the Aurukun residents were not consulted before legislation was passed allowing mining of the land at Aurukun. It said the agreement should be re-negotiated with the approval of the aborigines who should be legally represented.

Joh Bejelke Petersen said the Aurukun mining agreement would not be altered. Mr

Wharton, Minister for Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement said the petition was similar to documents being circulated throughout Australia by activists and militants - they were operating under the mantle of the Presbyterian or other church organisations promoting personal ideologies on the so-called land rights issue.

The Presbyterian Church Board of Missions director in Queensland, the Rev J. Sweet, said yesterday "the facts as we know them are that the Aurukun people have not been properly consulted over mining and that they do not want mining. The Government is continuing to say things that from my point of view are completely wrong." Mr Sweet said it was ridiculous to suggest he was a militant and an activist. □

J.S.



Arukun people defend their land.